GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1073
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
UNDERGROUND CABLES IN GRAM PANCHAYATS
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise number of Gram Panchayats which are connected by underground cables particularly in the backward and rural areas of the country, as on date;

(b) the number of the complaints received regarding laying of cable lines;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the Gram Panchayats despite laying cable alongwith the number of such Panchayats?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) There were 66,822 uncovered villages, excluding villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas. Out of the same, 48,704 villages including Gram Pranchayats, have been covered as on 30.06.2007.The statement is given in the Annexure.

(b)&(c) Complaints regarding laying of cable lines are addressed at local levels. From January, 2006 onward, three complaints have been received in Department of Telecommunications and sent to BSNL for investigation and necessary action.

(d) The uncovered 18,118 villages will be covered progressively by November, 2007.